

PATENT

Please insert the following heading and paragraph at page 1 of the specification after the heading "SPECIFICATION" and before the heading "FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR
DEVELOPMENT

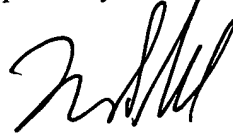
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The invention disclosed herein was funded by Grant No. DMI-9696062
awarded by the National Science Foundation.

R E M A R K S

The above paragraph has been added because the work underlying the present invention was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, as noted. Applicant merely seeks to amend the specification to disclose the information concerning the grant, which funded the work.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, examination of this application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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